



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021

No. 150

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SEWELL).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 24, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TERRI A. SEWELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, we appeal to You this afternoon, that by Your blessing, this day would prove fruitful.

Nothing this day is as we planned it. Not only have our schedules been upended; but the world itself has turned upside down. We scramble to get things done and make things right, but with so much at stake, and the issues so complex, our efforts seem desperate and futile.

We pray, therefore, that You who know our wanderings through this great wilderness would bless Your people with Your guidance on this day. Provide rescue, shelter, and peace to those whose very lives are endangered by anarchy and violence.

Provide wisdom, opportunity, and courage to those whose actions and decisions have influence on the outcome of the chaos within our own country and the unrest across the globe.

We pray Your benediction over our labor, equanimity in our thoughts, and purpose for our actions, that the extra measures we take, and the weighty decisions we make today would not be in vain.

We pray in the abiding love of Your holy name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REMEMBERING MIKE HONG

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of a generous and fearless leader, Chairman Mike Hong.

Chairman Hong was a beloved member of the AAPI community, who had a sincere devotion to serving a variety of communities and causes. He mentored countless young people and believed in the importance of Asian Americans being politically engaged.

He exemplified the immigrant who, by dint of talent, persistence, and

faith, blazed a trail to success and then ensured many others would share in his blessings, and they did.

I am especially proud that he helped finance a memorial of Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, a revered Korean independence freedom fighter, in the downtown mall of my hometown of Riverside, California.

Chairman Hong dedicated his life to the service of others, and that will never be forgotten. To the Hong family and all those who knew, loved, and respected him, I offer my deepest condolences.

HONORING STEVE WALSH

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend and the longest serving member of my staff, Steve Walsh.

Steve spent many years as a journalist covering politics in Washington, D.C. and Jefferson City, Missouri. He was one of my earliest supporters and spent the past decade serving the people of Missouri's Fourth Congressional District until his passing last week.

Steve leaves behind his beloved wife, State Representative Sara Walsh, and numerous friends throughout Missouri and our Nation.

He was always fun and full of sense of humor, love of major league baseball, the Beatles, and his faith.

Steve not only loved history, he lived history. He once took a selfie in France with Speaker PELOSI on the 75th anniversary of D-day. In 1985, while dining in Midtown Manhattan, Steve was asked by his editor to cover the assassination of Gambino crime boss Paul Castellano, where he incredibly encountered him deceased on the sidewalk. His life was truly filled with remarkable experiences.

Missouri has not only lost a true public servant, but a wonderful friend to so

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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many. Today we mourn the passing of Steve Walsh, but we also rejoice that he resides with his Creator now.

May his spirit live on throughout our work in Congress and in the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

AMERICANS SHOULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO THE BALLOT BOX

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to call attention to the importance of passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Every American should have equal access to the ballot box. Our democracy is stronger when everyone can participate. This should not be controversial or politicized, it is about ensuring a very basic right of every American.

Sadly, in my home State of Texas, the GOP has been trying again and again and again to strip our right to vote. After three attempts to pass a dangerous anti-voting bill, the Texas GOP has made it absolutely clear that they do not really want communities of color, seniors, and Latinos to vote.

The original Voting Rights Act was designed to stop this very kind of behavior. Voter suppression was wrong then and it is wrong now.

Madam Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4 so that we can strengthen our democracy and build on the Voting Rights Act. This bill will ensure that everyone has an equal right to vote.

RECOGNIZING MARTY REISER

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Marty Reiser, a man of immense character and integrity who selflessly served the American people for over 20 years.

After graduating from the College of the Holy Cross, Marty started at the Department of Commerce as an appointee under President Ronald Reagan.

In the 1990s, Marty came to the House of Representatives, where he worked for Congressman Dan Miller in a variety of roles, ultimately finishing up as his chief of staff. After leaving Capitol Hill, he went on to a think tank and taught high school before managing Xerox's governmental affairs team.

In 2011, Marty came back to the House, joining the Ways and Means Committee's Health Subcommittee, where he was instrumental in crafting legislation that would provide quality healthcare for millions of Americans.

On August 18, 2014, Marty joined my team and has been a vital part of it ever since. With a servant's heart and

attention to detail, Marty is an expert not only on House procedure, but on all issues passing through the whip's office, and is relied upon in all other leadership offices as well.

Thank you, Marty, for your faithful service to the House of Representatives, and best of luck in your future. You will be missed.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I understand the importance of passing legislation that will make much-needed investment in our Nation's infrastructure. And as the representative of the Virgin Islands, a place where modern infrastructure resilience to climate change is needed, I am committed to making that happen.

President Biden's Build Back Better agenda is not just about fixing our Nation's crumbling infrastructure, it is also about strengthening the economy, creating jobs, helping Americans afford the rising cost of living. These critical investments will not be possible without passage of a budget resolution.

Passage of a budget resolution gives House Democrats the opportunity to make sure we are not just investing in infrastructure, but also reducing carbon emission, restoring transit funding, reconnecting neighborhoods, and ensuring climate-resilient and affordable investment in our crumbling wastewater infrastructure, all of which are needed in my home.

Ensuring a bicameral reconciliation process, with input from the people's House prior to the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure legislation, is essential to advancing critical American priorities on infrastructure and so much more. That is why I know Democrats will work together and take the first step to enact a budget resolution this week.

AFGHANISTAN DEBACLE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, first of all, to all those who served in Afghanistan, we thank you. God bless you. You did everything you were asked to do. You did your duty with honor. But like most Americans, I watched with disgust as the Taliban retook Kabul last Sunday.

Any shame of that operation lies here in D.C. with the suits, not with the boots, who allowed this to happen. Yet, what are we hearing? Rhetoric. White House communications director Jen Psaki says: Now, it is irresponsible for those to be talking about Americans that are stranded in Afghanistan.

We see the word "stranded" on the front page of the newspaper. We see the

word "hostage." We see the words—all sorts of things—showing what a debacle this has been, including "debacle" right on the front page. So what do we get from the White House? We are not getting transparency, as promised by the Biden administration, unless you want to define "transparency" as invisible, which they have been.

We have to do much better to get our people out of this country, and all that material that was left behind is now in the hands of our enemies.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, we were here until about 12:15 this morning trying to work out the votes for a rule to move America forward. I hope we have them. We will find out soon.

We are trying to get the Build Back Better bill passed, the resolution to provide the opportunity for us to have that bill come forward, and the infrastructure bill as well. They will provide for needed infrastructure for American companies, businesses, and families; child care tax credits to be made permanent; prescription drug costs to be reduced; water lines improved and corrected; wastewater, which was so inadequate in Tennessee, where we had dozens die from floods.

Hopefully, we will get this passed, it is important business. I thank Speaker PELOSI and Leader HOYER for their long hours and their work in trying to build back America better.

AMERICANS STRANDED IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, President Biden's failure to safely withdraw our troops from Afghanistan has resulted in American civilians being attacked in broad daylight on the streets of Kabul as they attempt to reach the airport.

As I speak today, Americans are being stranded behind enemy lines. Our top priority must be to bring them home safely. Now is not the time for taking vacations or giving canned remarks from the west wing.

Now is the time for American leadership, and President Biden has failed us in this regard. The evidence is clear, the fall of Afghanistan is Joe Biden's Saigon.

Today, my prayers are with the military that they have redeployed and are working to end this crisis. They are also with the American citizens who remain today stranded in Afghanistan.